

**North Carolina Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council**  
**November 2, 2007**  
**10:00am-3:00pm**

**DRAFT Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jeff McCloud, Council Chair, Katie Sawyer (by phone), Terri Reichert (for Kevin Kelley) - Division of Social Services, Mary Edwards – Division of Aging, Beverly Varner, Sheila Wall-Hill, Vice Chair, Terri Shelton – UNC Greensboro, Carolyn Wiser- Division of Medical Assistance, Amy Smiley (for Laura White) - Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Substance Abuse Services), Teresa Dais - Department of Public Instruction), Gail Cormier- NC Families United, Michael Leslie (for Laura Yates) - Department of Corrections, Jim Swain – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. **Others Present:** Libby Jones, Martin Pharr, Dept. of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention **Staff Present:** Susan Robinson, Child Planner, Kelly Crowley, System of Care Coordinator

***Welcome, Introductions and Approval of October Minutes***

Chair, Jeff McCloud called the meeting to order at 10:15am. Jeff welcomed everyone and offered regrets from members who were not able to attend this meeting, as well as thanking those serving as designees. With a quorum present, the minutes were reviewed and, with minor changes, were approved. First motion to accept was given by Mary Edwards and seconded by Gail Cormier.

***Follow-up from October meeting and Review of Implementation Report***

Jeff asked Susan Robinson to lead the morning discussion, first asking for follow-up on Council questions asked in the October meeting.

Susan updated members in response to Council questions regarding the implementation of crisis services utilizing Mental Health Trust Funds. Each LME had to submit to the Division of MHDDSAS a plan for crisis services prior to funds being allocated, roughly a total of \$532,000. All LMEs have been approved with one exception: Albemarle. Division LME liaisons are tasked with ensuring that the crisis plans are implemented according to the plan that was approved. LMEs are required to submit a quarterly report to the Division on implementation progress. The Council would like to hear more about this issue at a future meeting.

Susan reported that the SFY08 plan has been completed and submitted. A peer review process will occur at the end of November in New Orleans to discuss achievements and significant events that are highlighted in the plan. Susan opened the discussion utilizing the draft implementation report for SFY 06-07.

Updated 12 month data will be inputted into the report for both the Child and Adult data tables along with some supporting information. In past meetings the Council carefully reviewed every data table, looking at 6 and 9 months year to date data in July and August. In October, Deborah Merrill and Nidu Menon provided a review of all the data collection tools, methods, results and reporting and ways in which the data can accurately be used.

Last year at the peer review, it was seen as a strength for NC to have the following: active working meetings of the Council, where in-depth data and reports were reviewed and questioned; Council recommendations on data collection tools (e.g. NCTOPPS) which were considered and

incorporated; multiple ways in which Council members were engaged locally or at the state/national levels; a meeting schedule with identified priorities and focus for meetings that was planned out by the Council.

In walking through the report outline and the sections of the report, members provided the following comments. In review of the first few pages, Sheila Wall-Hill stated that the report reads very well but posed the question regarding the degree to which the Council has oversight, given the system at large, of all the changes and challenges this presents when the block grant is such a small part of it. She indicated it was important to state up front in the introduction that the Council takes its' job very seriously in developing the plan and reporting results through the year. She wanted to be sure to see how the Council's priorities are recognized in the report. Mary Edwards added that we should also add the need for EBPs for the older population.

Mary Edwards commented that the MHBG is roughly \$10-12M and it would be helpful for the group to see a MHBG budget and what the funds are used for. Susan referred members to this information in the Plan in proposed allocations to each LME and in the report, in the final expenditures by each LME. In addition, the contracts funded through the Division using the block grant funds are listed, with contractors participating in the Council meetings regularly. Each contractor has provided a report/outcomes of their work in the past year in Council meetings. This information is reflected in the meeting minutes and in the plans and reports annually. These contractors include: NAMI/NC, MHA in NC, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work – Behavioral Resource Program and expert clinical consultation from the Center for Child and Family Health.

Terri Shelton stated that "ROI", return on investment, is one of the current buzz words. More detailed information on how the funds are used by the LMEs would be helpful as advisors to the Division on the use of block grant funds. Martin Pharr stated his understanding from Council reports and meetings is that money is used to implement evidenced-based practices and is interested in seeing how the funds are connected to the delivery of EBPs. Terri Shelton commented that some LMEs have utilized MH trust fund state dollars to implement EBPs. Council members suggested a report or panel discussion with some LME representatives regarding what the money is used for and who is served would be helpful in future meetings.

Jeff focused the group to the priorities of the block grant report and charged us with thinking about where in the report and the upcoming peer review where we would reflect the comments. Jeff indicated the challenge of the Council in being advisors to the Division on the block grant is that it is such a small part of the funding, less than 1-3% of total operating budget, and essential funding that would be greatly missed from our system without these dollars. Comments were made by the members regarding the system overall, as well, that will be noted in the Council letter and in the report. Jeff purposed, for the purposes of the report, we can add some statements in the opening paragraph to reflect members' concerns about the challenges in the system and plan some steps for next year to answer some of the questions that have been raised about funding.

Jeff McLoud suggested that our future agendas will dedicate 30 minutes to follow-up from presentations so that the Council can decide to comment/support various issues and/or programs and communicate that to leadership at the DMH/DD/SAS and the community. Jeff commented that the Council's work throughout the year is interwoven into our meetings and all of our documents and reiterated the support the Council has from the DMH/DD/SAS.

Review of the Child section of the report continued. Terri Shelton reiterated the need to add more examples of how MHBG funds have supported the implementation of evidenced-based practices in the system. The Council reviewed the handout Susan provided “Evidenced-Based Practice Happenings in North Carolina”. Council members indicated having this summarized information in one place was very helpful.

Martin Pharr asked for clarification about the NC Practice Improvement Collaborative (PIC) review of the Child Mental Health Toolkits. Susan clarified that the PIC reviews practices such as Therapeutic Foster Care, Motivational Interviewing, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and makes recommendations to the DMHDDSAS about what services to consider implementing. Jeff indicated that more consumers need to be appointed to the PIC and that is possibly a recommendation the Council might want to consider to make to DMHDDSAS. Terri Shelton and Jeff McLoud are both members of this group.

After lunch, the meeting reconvened at 12:30pm with committee meetings.

***Committees met and reported*** to the full Council. The committees met to discuss the draft of the SFY06 report transmittal letter. The Adult committee recommends including the speakers we had throughout the year as well as the points of focus on page 3 of the draft report. The Adult committee also requests NAMHPAC come to provide technical assistance in order to focus on one or two priorities in the future year.

The Child committee recommends for our January meeting to have a report on paid claims data in conjunction with the Community System Progress Indicators Report to understand what services our children, youth and families are receiving. The Adult committee members agreed that they would like to see this data in relation to adults also. The committee also recommends discussing the issue of health disparity. The Child committee also recommends using information from the report including adding bullet points in the draft letter specifically to emphasize Division support in garnering funds for focus groups and child and family team training. After some discussion, Council members suggested getting a report from the division’s legislative liaison regarding mental health.

Terri and Mary suggested the Council generate bullet points at the end of each meeting in 2008, much like information documented in the minutes, that can be used in the plan and/or report throughout the year.

### ***Member Updates***

Libby Jones reported that there is an effort to increase the mileage reimbursement from 25 cents per mile to 48 cents per mile for travel for participation in such meetings as the MHPAC and State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee. Members cheered!

### ***Wrap-Up***

Reimbursement forms were distributed and collected. Susan distributed information about the new parity law, Disability Rights NC, and health information related to drought and water. Jeff McLoud thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting. Jeff indicated the next meeting is January 4, 2008 at the Royster building in Raleigh, NC. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm.